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and the analysis of the social, economic, and political conditions that shaped its development.

The Introduction contains some biographical data concerning Dr. Fiske, analysis of the lectures from a standpoint of literary art, and an account of an unfinished address which Dr. Fiske was preparing at the time of his death. In this address, which was to have been delivered on the occasion of the millennial celebration in honor of King Alfred in 1901, he intended to amplify his previous position regarding international peace, giving special attention to the acquisition of the Philippines and the tariff question.

The addresses are replete with historical illustrations and original suggestions. The author views our political ideals as the inevitable product of social evolution. The masterly arrangement of his evidence, the clear and forceful diction, and the unwavering optimism tend to lead the reader to some happy anticipations that are scarcely justified by a more critical analysis. Although not always scientific, the volume has real value as an example of evolutionary philosophy applied to political history.

ARNOLD B. HALL

MADISON, WIS.

The Prevention of Destitution. By SIDNEY and BEATRICE WEBB.
New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1911.

The now famous Minority Report of the Poor Law Commission is continued and enforced in this radical yet thoroughly sane series of propositions. Relief does not prevent misery or crime; it is an opiate. The chief causes of destitution are sickness, inherited weakness, neglect of children, sweating, unemployment, insecurity of income. Poor relief, whether public or private, does not remove any of these causes; the Charity Organization Society and the penal features of the workhouse test have failed as truly as indiscriminate almsgiving. Apparently the American organizers of charity have come nearer to admitting this failure than their English colleagues; certainly of late our National Conference has rung the changes on this theme. We are about prepared to accept a vigorous policy including measures of public authority which will actually prevent sickness and not merely give hospital treatment to the destitute; which will require parents to feed and educate their children and help them if they are unable to perform their duty; which will make readjustments to avert unemployment and train the unemployable; which will segregate feeble-minded girls and women during the child-

bearing age and so cut off the reproduction of the unfit. Very important and entirely reasonable is the demand for a complete registration of all persons relieved, and a co-ordination of assistance with prevention. The older poor law and private charity theories presented no hope for the future; this policy of prevention, while it needs elaboration and trial to sift out speculative elements, does offer a reasonable program for optimism.

It is hard to understand why the traffic in liquor is handled so tenderly in this book, and why medical testimony as to its disastrous effects is completely ignored. Every measure proposed by this book would be, at least in part, counteracted by the existence of the legalized traffic in alcoholic drinks and the social beliefs which sustain it.

C. R. HENDERSON

Social Reform and the Constitution. By FRANK J. GOODNOW. New York: Macmillan, 1911. Pp. 359.

Professor Goodnow discusses the demands of social reform, government ownership, regulation, and aid; the constitutionality of uniform commercial regulation; the power of Congress to charter interstate commerce corporations; the power of Congress over private law; the constitutionality of political reform, of government regulation and government aid. He provides an ample table of cases and analyzes many of them to discover the probable direction of future court decisions. He reiterates the anxieties and even the impatience of reformers caused by decisions of the courts which have blocked progress. This obstructionist attitude is ascribed to the fact that legal traditions favor a social philosophy which was shaped by conditions in the eighteenth century; conditions of welfare change, but the judicial mind frequently ignores them and bows to precedents.

The result of this extreme conservatism must be either to paralyze progressive movements or lead to revolution. If the courts cannot be induced to interpret the Constitution in accordance with the requirements of life in the new age, then the people will gradually strip the judicial branch of much of its power and dignity. The movement to secure the recall of judges who resist legislatures is an indication of what may happen. Congress has much more control over the Supreme Court than is commonly supposed. There are other methods of pressure; but the author expresses the hope that the judges will be wise in time and become familiar enough with the data furnished by the social